



STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD

July 11, 2003 - 1:00 PM
Calkins Nature Center
18335 – 135th Street
Three Miles West of
Iowa Falls, Iowa

The Board will also tour the Slayton Round Barn at 10:00 AM. The round barn is located at the intersection of Georgetown Road and County Highway S33 on the west edge of Iowa Falls. The tour is open to the public.

---Agenda Topics---

1	Approve Agenda	Decision
2	Approve Minutes of April Meeting	Decision
3	<p>Preserve nomination updates:</p> <p>Slayton Round Barn- Opportunity for brief discussion of the morning field trip to this site. Draft management plan is expected to be available for October meeting.</p> <p>Glenwood Resource Center- The Director of the Department of Human Services has is amenable to the drafting of a management plan for the proposed archaeological preserve at the Glenwood Resource Center. Kathy Gourley of the State Historical Society has offered to lead committee to draft a plan.</p> <p>Banister-McGregor Woods- The Greene County Engineer has requested a court hearing on July 14 to modify the 1991 injunction against road construction in order to access the property to conduct environmental, historical, and economical studies of alternatives for the proposed road project.</p> <p>Rock Island Preserve addition- Discussion of newly available environmental studies (due June 30), revised management plan, and lawsuit filed by City of Cedar Rapids against James Properties and Linn County over donation of land in proposed addition to Rock Island Preserve.</p>	Information (John Pearson and Daryl Howell)
4	Hartman Reserve – The Black Hawk County Conservation Board proposed that a portion of Hartman Reserve be dedicated as a state preserve. A revised management plan for the proposed preserve has been submitted for Board approval.	Decision (John Pearson)
5	Pohl Preserve at Ames High Prairie- A revised management plan for this preserve has been drafted by stewardship committee.	Decision (John Pearson and Erv Klaas)
6	Steele Prairie – The Cherokee County Engineer has applied for a permit to remove silt from two natural drainage ways on the preserve in order to drain water from the road ditch. The Engineer is concerned that retention of water in the road ditch is causing damage to the gravel road. DNR staff met with the	Information (John Pearson and Daryl Howell)

	Cherokee County Engineer in May to discuss possible options. The Engineer is checking with adjacent landowners to determine if they are willing to install additional soil conservation measures.	
7	Baseline Studies – Joe McGovern, Land Stewardship Director for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, will describe baseline information used to monitor conservation easements, a principle which could apply to state preserves.	Information (Joe McGovern)
8	Fish Farm Mounds- DNR staff met with Shirley Schermer of OSA to outline actions needed at Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, including removal of trees from mounds and to expand preserve boundary to include other mounds.	Information (John Pearson)
9	White Pine Hollow- The east entrance has been gated just beyond the parking lot adjacent to the county gravel road. This closes the ½-mile long, dead-end maintenance road, which had been in nearly impassible condition. Prior to closing, work was done on the road to repair erosion problems and low water stream crossings. The road now will be used only for DNR maintenance vehicles and as a hiking trail to the interior of the Preserve. The State Preserves Advisory Board, as early as 1982, had previously recommended that the road be closed.	Information (John Pearson)
10	Prairie Seed Harvest – Bill Johnson, IDNR Prairie Seed Team Leader, is requesting permission to hand harvest seed from the prairie preserves.	Decision (Bill Johnson)
11	Geocaching- An emerging outdoor recreational activity involves the use of hand-held GPS (Geographic Positioning System) instruments to search for small caches (generally jars with inexpensive gifts) whose geographical coordinates are posted on websites. A DNR staff committee regards this as benign form of recreation on state lands in need of modest regulation, but recommended consideration of this issue by the Preserves Board.	Information (Daryl Howell)
12	<p>Research Requests-</p> <p>Bluffton Fir Stand- Kevin Potter of North Carolina State University requests permission to collect samples of branch tips of balsam fir.</p> <p>Bixby- Wendy Bower, working for the Iowa Geological Survey under Bob Libra and others, requested staff permission to dig two 6-inch diameter, 22-inch depth holes to obtain soil samples for U.S. Geological Survey as part of national baseline study of metals in soils. Because study needed to start prior to the Board meeting, staff permission was granted after consulting with Kathy Gourley and Shirley Schermer.</p> <p>Steele Prairie- Benjamin Montgomery of the University of Michigan requested staff permission to study leafy spurge infestation at Steele Prairie and to temporarily place potted plants of native prairie species in preserve. Because study needed to start before next Board meeting, staff permission was granted after consulting with Scott Moats, Laura Jackson, and Neil Bernstein.</p> <p>Cayler Prairie- Embere Hall, a graduate student at ISU requested permission from staff to conduct a study of the success of songbird nesting in grasslands and wetlands in northwest Iowa. Because the study needed to be initiated prior to the next Board meeting staff approval was granted.</p> <p>Prairie Preserves- Jessica Skibbe, an ISU graduate student, requested permission to collect information about the butterfly communities on five prairie preserves. Staff permission was granted because the study needed to be started prior to the July Board meeting.</p> <p>Hayden Prairie- Donald Wright, a lepidoptera expert from Ohio has again requested permission to collect microlepidoptera from Hayden Prairie. Mr. Wright has collected preserves several times in the past and has always provided</p>	Decision and Information (John Pearson and Daryl Howell)

	species lists and other information to the DNR. Staff permission was granted, as this is a continuation of previous surveys.	
13	<p>New nominations:</p> <p><i>Sand Woods-</i> Landowners Jim & Karole Fuller, Dick & Deb Baker, Bill & Judith Klink, and Art Bettis and Brenda Nations are interested in investigating state preserve status for their 100-acre property in Cedar County. The predominantly natural vegetation consists of black oak forest, wet swales, and prairie openings on an aeolian dune landscape on the east side of the Cedar River near the town of Cedar Bluff. Visited by John Pearson on May 16.</p> <p><i>MacBride and Coralville sites-</i> Two sites in Johnson County have been suggested as potential state preserves by Iowa City naturalists Tom Madsen, Diana Horton, Connie Mutel, and Mary Sue Bowers: an isolated portion of Lake MacBride State Park (DNR land) and a portion of the Sandy Beach Recreation Area on Coralville Reservoir (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land). The Lake MacBride site is a forested area containing rare plants; about 2 miles to the northwest, the Sandy Beach site contains sand deposits, wetlands, limestone outcrops, and rare plants. Not yet visited by preserves staff. Tom Madsen will present a PowerPoint overview to the Board.</p>	Information (John Pearson)
14	Open Discussion	Chair
15	Next Meeting	Information